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# Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-08 /098 W
----------110242Z 107442 /22
R 101517Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2126
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1598

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EB XF XA
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: OAU/ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT

REF: STATE 046135

1. I ASKED FONMIN KHADDAM MARCH 10, THE DAY AFTER HIS RETURN FROM CAIRO SUMMIT, ABOUT THE SUMMIT'S HANDLING OF ISSUES LISTED IN PARA 4 REFTEL. KHADDAM MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A. ARAB ISSUES:

(1) HE DESCRIBED, AS IS HIS WONT, CONFERENCE AS "HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL" IN ACHIEVING IMPROVED AFRO-ARAB MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE ISSUE OF ZIONISM/RACISM, COMMENTING MERELY THAT THE AGREEMENT TO IDENTIFY ZIONISM AS A RACIST MOVEMENT WAS CLEAR IN THE SUMMIT'S FINAL COMMUNIQUE.

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(2) IN ANSWER MY COMMENT THAT THE AFRICANS SEEMED TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY BARGAINED UPWARDS ARAB PLEDGES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, KHADDAM STATED FLATLY THAT NEWS REPORTS TO THIS EFFECT WERE TOTALLY MISLEADING. BOTH THE ARAB AND AFRICAN SIDES, HE ASSERTED, INTENDED CONFERENCE TO UNDERLINE AFRO-ARAB SOLIDARITY AND TO INCLUDE IN COMMUNIQUE ONLY A GENERAL STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ARABS STOOD READY TO

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INCREASE THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO AFRICA. THE SAUDI PLEDGE OF ONE BILLION DOLLARS HAD TAKEN ALL CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS BY SURPRISE. SAUDI ACTION PROMPTED A TOTAL OF A FURTHER HALF BILLION DOLLARS IN PLEDGES BY OTHER OIL STATES.

B. AFRICAN ISSUES:

(1) SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTIONS WERE NOT EXTENSIVELY DEBATED ACCORDING TO KHADDAM. THERE WAS NO NEED TO DO SO SINCE ARAB SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN POSITIONS ON RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA HAVE LONG BEEN CLEAR.

(2) THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA BECAUSE IT WAS AGREED FROM THE BEGINNING THAT INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL DISPUTES WERE NOT TO BE RAISED AT THIS CONFERENCE.

(3) HE ASSERTED THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO EITHER SOVIET OR CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA.

2. DEPARTMENT PASS OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED.
MURPHY

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# Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**
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